

**David A. Hayes**  
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January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

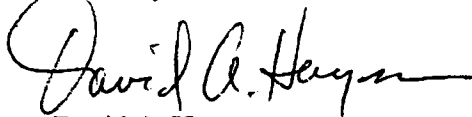
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed settlement of the antitrust lawsuit against the Microsoft Corporation. The company's impressive ability to innovate and serve the consumer with affordable, quality products does not warrant the extensive legal action that we've seen over the last three years and should be ended at once.

The deal provides Microsoft's competitors with several openings in the marketplace that should satisfy the industry. The company has pledged to treat computer makers equally, regardless of their software preferences, by offering identical pricing to the top twenty hardware manufacturers and eliminating any contract stipulations that would obligate the distribution or promotion of Windows technologies. Considering these terms, and additional implementation of a three-person technical committee to review compliance, the government should accept this generous offer.

Please finalize the agreement at the end of the sixty-day public comment period at the end of this month. The economy and the consumer will greatly benefit from the decision to let the software industry get back to business once again. Thank you.

Sincerely,



David A. Hayes